

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 INR-07 SS-15 EUR-12 /045 W

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R 171300Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1212

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1635

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR PFOR GV US

SUBJECT: NAVAL VISIT TO CONAKRY

1. IN CONNECTION BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS, EMBASSY INTERESTED IN EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF US NAVAL VISIT TO CONAKRY. FOR BEST EFFECT, VISIT WOULD BE ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 22 (WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY) IN CONJUNCTION EMBASSY NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION.

2. EMBASSY HAS NO RECORD OF DATE LAST NAVAL VISIT AND CANNOT PREDICT HOW GOG WOULD RESPOND TO REQUEST. THIS SEEMS GOOD TIME TO TEST THE WATER, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF BICENTENNIAL CONNECTION. ALSO, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO TEST PERVASIVE FEELING HERE THAT SEKOU TOURE, EVEN WHILE MAINTAINING HIS ANTI-CAPITALIST RHETORIC AND RADICAL UN POSTURE, IS BECOMING DISENCHANTED WITH HIS SOVIET TIES AND MAY BE CASTING ABOUT FOR WAYS TO IMPROVE HIS RELATIONS WITH US AND WEST. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, A SOVIET DESTROYER AND ALLIGATOR CLASS LANDING CRAFT HAVE BEEN OPERATING FROM CONAKRY EVER SINCE "PORTUGUESE INVASION" OF 1970. VISIT OF USN VESSEL WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR TOURE TO MAKE SYMBOLIC GESTURE IF HE IS SO INCLINED.

3. IF DEPT CONCURS, SUGGEST AF/W INFORMALLY SOUND OUT NAVY ON AVAILABILITY APPROPRIATE VESSEL (PERHAPS DESTROYER OR SUPPLY SHIP) TO CALL AT CONAKRY FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS ON OR WEOUT FEB 22. SHOULD NAVY BE ATTRACTED TO THIS PROPOSAL BUT HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH TIMING, EMBASSY COULD DELAY BICENTENNIAL RECEPTION UP TO TWO MONTHS AND STILL BE CONFIDENT OF GOOD WEATHER.

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Message Attributes

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